

February 3, 2021

Dear Chairman Luick and Senators of the Agricultural Committee;

|

My name is Shelley Lenz, owner of State Ave Vet Clinic in Dickinson and Killdeer Vet Clinic. I also am the Founder and President of the international nonprofit Sustainable Vets International, which focuses on local economic development including food security. I would like to express my full support of this legislation.

I had the joy of running a Statewide campaign last election cycle. I drove my truck from Pembina to Amidon, Fargo to Williston talking with farmers, ranchers, waitresses, small business owners, oil workers, college kids and everything in between.

One unifying theme from my conversations across the state, that is reflected in the broad spectrum of urban and rural, republican and democrat co-sponsors of this bill is the importance of healthy soil. People shared concerns about local food movements, food security, bee populations, carbon sequestration/climate solutions, urban gardening, improved farm/beef production, dangerous algae blooms, access to clean water, healthy foods, and green spaces; hunting, flood/drought issues and economic resilience. All of these things have one thing in common--Healthy Soil.

North Dakota is continuing to lose on average 3-5 tons/acre of soil per year on cultivated lands [1,NDSU]. In addition, North Dakota's soils continue to lose high levels of carbon (or organic debris) instead of actually storing and retaining that carbon that is